Docket No. AUS920010329US1

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for service processor surveillance, comprising:

5   receiving a service processor status request from a first partition;

        performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the time period has elapsed;

        updating an official response for the surveillance

10   test; and

        returning a status for the service processor to the partition.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of performing the surveillance test comprises:

15   reading surveillance information; and

        determining whether the service processor has written to the surveillance information.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of performing the surveillance test further comprises

20   writing to the surveillance information.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein the surveillance information comprises a surveillance byte in nonvolatile random access memory.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

25   performing error handling if the service processor is in error.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the status comprises the official response.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
comparing the official response to a partition
official response associated with the first partition;
and
setting the partition official response to be equal
to the official response if the official response is not
equal to the partition official response.

10   8. The method of claim 7, wherein the status comprises
the partition official response.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the status comprises
a neutral value if the official response is equal to the
partition official response.

15   10. A method for service processor surveillance,
comprising:
receiving a service processor status request from a
first partition;
determining whether a predetermined time period has
20   elapsed;
performing a surveillance test for the service
processor if the time period has elapsed; and
returning a status for the service processor to the
partition.

25   11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of
performing the surveillance test comprises:
reading surveillance information; and

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determining whether the service processor has written to the surveillance information.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of performing the surveillance test further comprises

5   writing to the surveillance information.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the surveillance information comprises a surveillance byte in nonvolatile random access memory.

14. An apparatus for service processor surveillance,

10   comprising:

     receipt means for receiving a service processor status request from a first partition;

     surveillance means for performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the time period has

15   elapsed;

     update means for updating an official response for the surveillance test; and

     return means for returning a status for the service processor to the partition.

20   15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the surveillance means comprises:

     reading means for reading surveillance information; and

     determination means for determining whether the

25   service processor has written to the surveillance information.

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16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the surveillance means further comprises means for writing to the surveillance information.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the surveillance information comprises a surveillance byte in nonvolatile random access memory.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
   means for performing error handling if the service processor is in error.

19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the status comprises the official response.

20. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
   means for comparing the official response to a partition official response associated with the first partition; and
   means for setting the partition official response to be equal to the official response if the official response is not equal to the partition official response.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the status comprises the partition official response.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the status comprises a neutral value if the official response is equal to the partition official response.

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23.   An apparatus for service processor surveillance, comprising:

    receipt means for receiving a service processor status request from a first partition;

5   determination means for determining whether a predetermined time period has elapsed;

    surveillance means for performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the time period has elapsed; and

10   return means for returning a status for the service processor to the partition.

24.   The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the surveillance means comprises:

    reading means for reading surveillance information;

15   and

    determination means for determining whether the service processor has written to the surveillance information.

25.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the surveillance

20   means further comprises means for writing to the surveillance information.

26.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the surveillance information comprises a surveillance byte in nonvolatile random access memory.

25   27.   A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for service processor surveillance, comprising:

    instructions for receiving a service processor status request from a first partition;

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instructions for performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the time period has elapsed;

instructions for updating an official response for the surveillance test; and

5   instructions for returning a status for the service processor to the partition.

28. A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for service processor surveillance, comprising:

instructions for receiving a service processor
10   status request from a first partition;

instructions for determining whether a predetermined time period has elapsed;

instructions for performing a surveillance test for the service processor if the time period has elapsed; and

15   instructions for returning a status for the service processor to the partition.